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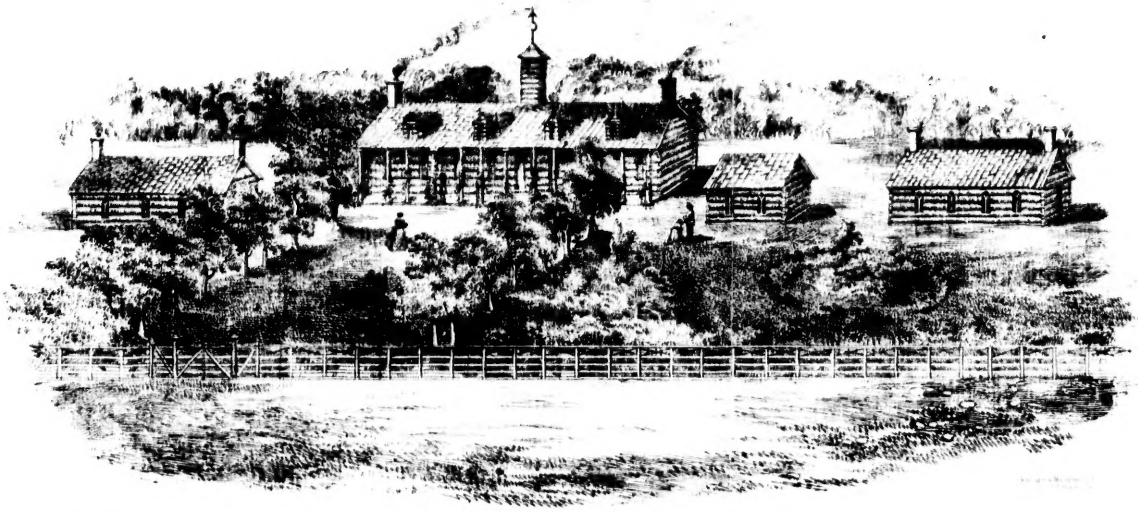

SCHOOL HOUSE REV. Mr KING'S HOUSE POST OFFICE CHURCH

FUGITIVE SLAVES IN CANADA.

ELGIN SETTLEMENT.

There are upwards of 30,000 coloured persons in Canada, mostly fugitives from the United States. Their numbers are increasing rapidly by the operation of the Fugitive Slave Law, which gives them no resting place till they reach Canada, where they generally arrive in a destitute condition, stripped of everything but life. The occasion of the Elgin Settlement, being formed for their social and moral improvement, was this: The Rev. William King having become heir to a number of slaves in Louisiana, set them free as soon as they came into his possession, paid their passage, and accompanied them to Canada, a distance of 1500 miles. On his arrival he found the fugitives in that degraded condition in which slavery had left them, most of them without a home and without a friend, and for whose soul no man cared.

An appeal was made to the Christian community on their behalf, which was responded to by the friends of the slave there. An Association was formed, under the patronage of Lord Elgin, then Governor-General, which was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1850, under the title of the Elgin Association. Mr. King was chosen unanimously to superintend the Settlement. Eighteen thousand dollars were subscribed, and nine thousand acres of land secured from Government in the Township of Raleigh, and County of Kent. Those lands were divided into farms of fifty acres each, and given to coloured settlers at a nominal price.

One of the objects contemplated by this effort was to show by practical experiment that the coloured man, when placed in favourable circumstances, could support himself by his own industry, and to refute the charge brought against him by the pro-slavery party in the United States, that he would not support himself when set free. On these lands upwards of two hundred families are now settled, supporting themselves by their own industry.

Lord Althorp, now Earl Spencer, of England, who visited the Settlement in 1857, and Professor Gibson of Belfast, and the Rev. William M'Lure of Londonderry, who spent two days, in 1858, in visiting the Settlement, speak favourably of their improvement. The Rev. Dr. Burns and Dr. Willis of Toronto are Vice-Presidents of the Elgin Association, and frequently visit the Settlement. They also testify to the success of the experiment, and the industry of the settlers.

On these lands a church has been erected, to supply the adult population with the means of grace; and schools have been established, to give the children a good education. These schools are now attended by upwards of one hundred pupils. The number would be greatly increased by enlarging the accommodation, and erecting permanent buildings.

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The buildings are all of a temporary kind, and will require to be replaced by others of a more substantial and permanent nature. The schools will require the support of friends for some time to come. It is on behalf of the spiritual and educational part of the enterprise that we now appeal to you; we ask nothing for their temporal support. We ask you only to aid us in the erection of good and substantial buildings, to place the schools on a permanent and efficient basis, and to create a few bursaries for the purpose of preparing young men of piety and talents for future usefulness, either in Canada, the United States, or Africa.

Already the schools have borne fruit. A few teachers, trained at the schools, have been sent out to different parts of the province, where they are now usefully employed. Richard M. Johnson, one of the fugitives, is now studying in the University of Edinburgh as a medical missionary.

A few thousand pounds will be required for the objects contemplated. The principal cities in Ireland and Scotland have been visited, where persons of all denominations have sympathised with the movement, and have aided with their donations this effort to improve the social and moral condition of a long-neglected and deeply-injured race. We now visit your city on behalf of the same object, and ask you to aid us in giving the Bible to the fugitive, and endowing him with the capacity to read it.

Your donations may be sent to ANDREW NIELSON, Esq., Cashier of the Bank of Scotland, Glasgow; or to Messrs. BARCLAY, BEVAN & Co., Bankers, London, to the credit of the Buxton Institute.

WM. KING,
ROBT. BURNS, D. D. } Deputation from Canada.

N. B.—All communications regarding the Schools at Buxton may be addressed to the Rev. WILLIAM KING, or Rev. ROBERT BURNS, D. D., 13 Euston Road King's Cross, London.

July, 1860.

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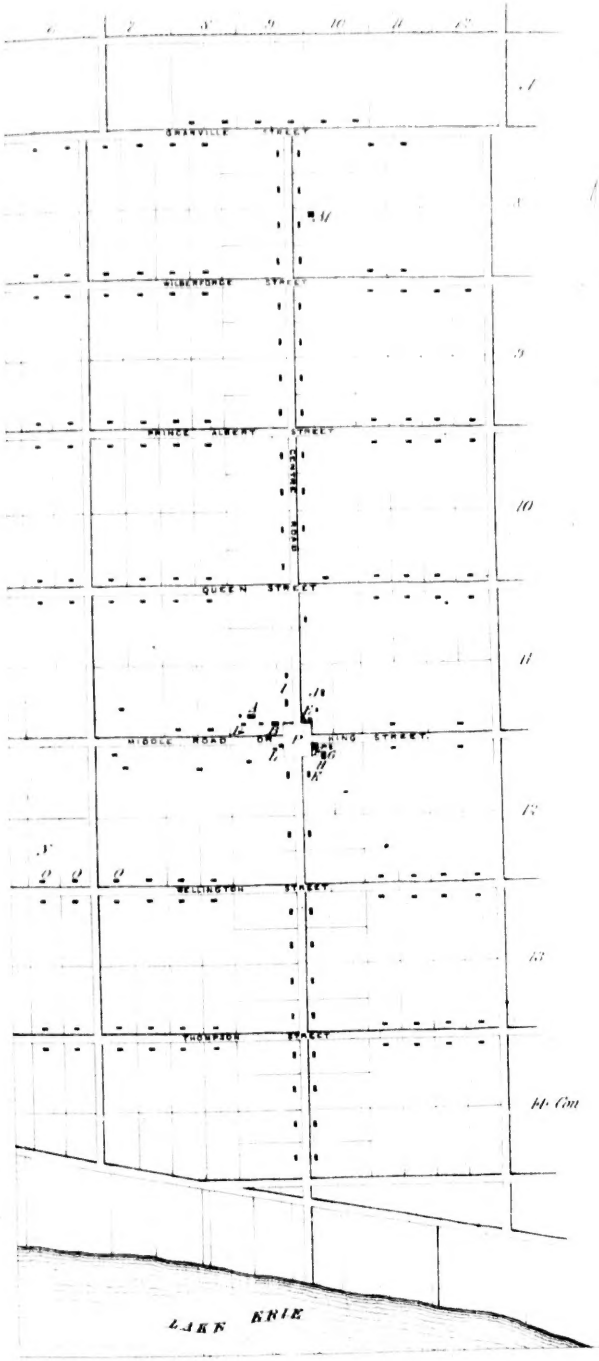

Note.

The Elgin Association was incorporated by Act of Parliament 10th August 1850 for the social and moral improvement of the coloured Population of Canada.

The settlement is nearly 6 Miles long and 3 Miles wide containing about 200 Families embracing about 1000 Souls.

The land is divided into Farms of 50 acres each and the Houses built along the Concessions after a model 18 feet by 24. 12 feet high, and set 33 feet from the Road enclosed in front with a picket fence.

For further information see Annual Report of the Elgin Association.

PLAN
OF THE
ELGIN SETTLEMENT
IN THE
TOWNSHIP OF RALEIGH,
COUNTY OF KENT,
CANADA WEST.

ELGIN SETTLEMENT in the Township of Raleigh County of Kent Canada West, founded by the REV^d WILLIAM KING, the Clayton of Mrs Stowes "DRED." *See Chapter 56*

References.

A. Revd Wm Kings House
B. Mission Church.
C. Buxton Post Office
D. Mission School.
E. Stores
F. Stores
G. Blacksmith
H. Potashes
I. Brick Yard
J. Steam Saw and Grist Mill
K. Carpenter's Shop
L. Shoe Shop.